

Request title: Wheelchair waiting times for children 2014 & 2015

Date of Response: 19th February 2016

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

- How long, in weeks, children (under 16) waited for an assessment for a wheelchair or specialist seating following an initial referral to the children's wheelchair service?

Please see the tables below:

Referral to Assessment in Number

	Within 4 wks	Within 8 wks	Within 12 wks	Within 16 wks	Total
2014	305	100	19	3	427
2015	226	58	6	0	290

Referral to Assessment in %

	Within 4 wks	Within 8 wks	Within 12 wks	Within 16 wks
2014	71%	25%	3%	1%
2015	78%	20%	2%	0%

- How long, in weeks, children had to wait to receive equipment following the assessment?

Please see the tables below:

Assessment to Delivery in Number

	Within 4 wks	Within 8 wks	Within 12 wks	Within 16 wks	Over 16 wks	Total
2014	120	143	84	39	41	427
2015	86	99	64	23	18	290

Assessment to Delivery in %

	Within 4 wks	Within 8wks	Within 12 wks	Within 16 wks	Over 16 wks
2014	28%	33%	20%	9%	10%
2015	30%	34%	22%	8%	6%

Please provide data for children referred in 2015 and for those referred in 2015.

Data could be grouped by weeks – less than 4 weeks, 4 weeks to less than 8 weeks, 8 weeks to less than 12 weeks, 12 weeks to less than 16 weeks and more than 16 weeks.

Please note the following points in relation to the data that has been supplied above:

- These figures are based on the referrals received for children in 2014 and 2015 that resulted in the need for an assessment to be completed by EMC staff.
- As the request specifically asks for information on children physically assessed by a member of the Exeter Mobility Centre after referral, the figures **do not** include referrals received at EMC for children where the Exeter Mobility Centre clinical team recommended supply of direct issue of equipment or replacement equipment without undertaking an actual physical assessment of the child.

- The reduction in the number received in 2015 compared to 2014 is due to the contract with Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group ceasing after June 2015.
- The time from referral to assessment is the time it took from receipt of referral to the first assessment of the child by an Exeter Mobility Centre member of staff. This can include time taken for cancelled appointments by parents/carers, Exeter Mobility Centre, and patients who may have failed to attend their appointments.
- The time from assessment to delivery is the time it took from the first assessment of the child by Exeter Mobility Centre staff to the equipment being delivered to the child. This can include time taken for fitting appointments, moulding appointments, cancelled appointments by parents/carers, Exeter Mobility Centre, and patients who may have failed to attend their appointments.